



Urban District of Kidsgrove.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

YEAR 1942



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I.
KIDSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR
1942.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

- (a) H. P. HARPUR, B.A., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Private Address:--"Holmcroft," Alsager.

(Part-time Official.)

- (b) E. STANSFIELD, A.R., San. I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

(also Certified Meat and Food Inspector)

(Whole-time Official.)

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL OFFICER & PUBLIC VACCINATOR:

Dr. W. A. McDonald, "Ivy Cottage," Congleton Road, Talke.

DISTRICT HEALTH VISITORS: (under control of County Council)

Nurse L. Moorcroft, S.R.N., S.C.M., 24, First Avenue,
Kidsgrove.

Nurse F. Morley, S.R.N., S.C.M., "Cornerways,"
Gower Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Nurse C. Waldron, S.R.N., C.M.B., 93, High Street,
Harriseahead.

DISTRICT MIDWIVES: (under control of County Council)

Nurse B. A. Cottrell, S.R.N., C.M.B., Chapel Lane,
Harriseahead. ('Phone - Bid. 160)

Mrs. M. A. Tabbitor, C.M.B., 1, Woodside Avenue,
Kidsgrove. ('Phone - Kids. 211)

Miss R. Sutton, C.M.B., 8, Skellern Street,
Butt Lane, Talke, ('Phone - Kids. 29)

Urban District of Kidsgrove.

Medical Officer's Report for the year 1942.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kidsgrove
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1942.

A. (1.) Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 4,095 Acres.

Rateable value: £49,707.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £185½ (approx).

The Area is divided into three Wards:—

The Kidsgrove Ward.

The Newchapel Ward.

The Talke Ward.

The district is mainly a residential district for the surrounding industrial areas where a large proportion of the workers are employed in the coal mining or pottery industries.

(2) VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births: Total 254. Males 135. Females 119.

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 17.5.

Stillbirths: Total 8. Males 5. Females 3.

Illegitimate Births: Total 5. Males 5. Females 0.

Deaths: Total 176, Males 93. Females 83.

Ages at Death :

Under 1 year	...	...	13
1 to 10 years	...	..	8
10 to 20	„	...	5
20 to 30	„	...	10
30 to 40	„	..	9
40 to 50	„	...	18
50 to 60	„	...	26
60 to 70	„	...	33
70 to 80	„	...	33
Over 80	„	...	21
Total,			176

Causes of Death -

Accidents	...	...	11
Abscess	...	...	2
Arterio-Sclerosis	...	..	20
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis			15
Convulsions	..	...	3
Cancer	...	...	16
Cerebro-Spinal Fever		...	1
Congenital Pyloric Stenosis		...	1
Diabetes	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	1
Heart Diseases	...	...	44
Kidney Disease	..	...	3
Lymphadenoma	...	...	1
Lung Diseases	...	..	5
Pneumonia (Lobar and Bronchial)	...		7
Pernicious Anaemia		...	4
Puerperal Septicæmia and Contracted Pelvis			1
Perforation of Bowel		..	4
Premature Birth	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	2
Senile Decay	...	...	5
Septicæmia	...	...	3
Status Epilepticus	...	...	3
Strangulated Hernia		...	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)		...	5
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)		..	6
Other Diseases	...	...	9
Total,			176

This total includes the following transferable deaths from outside the area. Total 63. Males 30. Females 33.

Death Rate (crude) per 1000 of the estimated population: 12.0.

Deaths from puerperal causes: 1. (contracted Pelvis)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year: Total 13.

Males 8. Females 5.

Death Rate of Infants per 1000 births: 51.2.

Deaths from Measles: 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough; 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age): 1.

Inquests: 13.

There has been no specially noteworthy cause of sickness during the year, and no special conditions of occupation or environment which appears to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

B. General Provision of Health Service in the Area.

1. *Public Health Officers of the Authority:* (See page 1.)

2. (a) *Laboratory Facilities:*—Laboratory arrangements for the examination of sputum, swabs, water, milk and foodstuffs are undertaken by the County Laboratory at Stafford.

(b) *Ambulance Facilities:*—For infectious cases, a motor ambulance is kept at Bradwell Isolation Hospital, and can be summoned by telephone, (Chesterton 68061). A motor ambulance maintained by the Kidsgrove Home Service Ambulance Committee is available at the Town Hall for non-infectious cases and accidents. It is large enough for three stretchers or for two stretchers and five sitting cases.

3. *Nursing in the Home:* There is a local Nursing Association affiliated with the County Association which is supported by voluntary subscriptions.

The three Health Visitors reside and work in the area, one in each Ward. They look after expectant and nursing mothers and take on the supervision of any case under these heads, or any special case when required to do so by the Medical Officer.

4. *Clinics and Treatment Centres:* Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held at Kidsgrove, Harseahead and Talke.

These Clinics are managed by the Medical and Nursing Staff of the County Council. School Clinics are held regularly by the School Medical Officer of the County Council.

There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Newcastle-under-Lyme.

There is a voluntary Nursing School at Wesley Street, Kidsgrove, under the control of the Staffordshire County Council Education Committee. It has accommodation for 40 children and is usually attended to full capacity. Two War-time Nurseries are in process of construction at Liverpool Road, Kidsgrove, and Banbury Street, Talke.

Veneral Cases can obtain treatment as follows:—

North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary:

Males—Monday & Friday, 6-30 to 8-0 p.m.

Tuesday to Thursday, 9-30 to 12 noon.

Females—Monday & Friday, 5-0 to 6-0 p.m.

Tuesday to Thursday, 9-30 to 12 noon.

Saturday, 10-0 to 12 noon.

Municipal Treatment Centre, Wellesley St., Hanley:

Both Sexes. Monday & Thursday, 2-30 to 7-0 p.m.

Tuesday & Friday, 10-30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, 2-30 to 5-0 p.m.

There are no Artificial Light Clinics.

5. *Hospitals—Fever*: Infectious cases are sent to Bradwell Isolation Hospital (or the Newcastle Infectious Diseases Hospital by arrangement with Bradwell).

Smallpox: Smallpox cases may be sent to Bagnall Fever Hospital (North Staffs Joint Hospital Board).

The Council contributes to the maintenance of the Bradwell Isolation Hospital.

Tuberculosis: Cases of Tuberculosis are provided with sanatorium facilities by the joint Committee of the County Council, Wolverhampton, and Dudley County Boroughs.

Maternity: There is no Maternity Hospital for the district. Where admission to a hospital is imperative, patients will be received by the North Staffs Royal Infirmary, or by the Public Assistance Institutions at Newcastle or Keele Road. The County Council have arrangements with the Mrs. Legge Memorial Home, Wolverhampton, for dealing with unmarried prospective mothers who can be received there for their confinement.

Children: The North Staffs Royal Infirmary.

Orthopædic: The Cripples Hospital, Hartshill, or the above.

The North Staffs Royal Infirmary is available for all forms of treatment, medical and surgical. It is contributed to by voluntary contributions from the area.

None of these hospitals are situated within the area.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. Water.

(a) Kidsgrove Ward:

The properties in this ward are supplied by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board. The water is of good quality and the supply is fully maintained throughout the year.

1563 houses are supplied by this source.

(b) Newchapel Ward:

At present the water supply for this ward is obtained from four sources:—

- 1.—Well 105 ft. deep at Mow Cop Waterworks.
- 2.—Well 80 ft. deep at Harding's Row, Mow Cop.
- 3.—Supply from mains connected with mains of Biddulph U.D.C.
- 4.— do do. Congleton R.D.C.

The Agreement with Congleton R.D. Council provides for a minimum supply of 20,000 gallons and a maximum supply of 51,000 gallons daily. The Agreement with Biddulph U.D. Council provides for a minimum of 10,000 gallons and a maximum of 75,000 gallons daily.

The yield from the Council's wells averaged 20,490 gallons per day for the year. The amount of water obtained from the adjoining authorities averaged 40,600 gallons daily. The combined supplies have produced 61,090 gallons per day for a population of 4000 (estimated) giving an approximate daily consumption of 15½ gallons per head per day.

The water from the wells and a portion of the supply from Congleton R.D. Council is received into the Mow Cop Reservoir (covered) which has a capacity of 130,000 gallons.

The quantity of water delivered from the wells has been decreasing for some years, and the authorities who supply water have been pressing for a reduction in the consumption for their sources of supply. To preserve an adequate amount of water in the Mow Cop Wells, the part of the ward where the supply is augmented by Biddulph Water has had to rely on the latter supply entirely for a period during each day. The pressure of the Biddulph supply is poor and this has resulted in a serious shortage of water in the actual Newchapel area.

The necessity for improving the water supply in this ward has become apparent and a preliminary report, prepared by the Surveyor and Water Engineer was submitted to the Ministry of Health during the year.

(c) *Talke Ward*:—

The water for public supply is purchased from the Newcastle R.D. Council and is stored in two Tank Reservoirs at Talke which have a total storage capacity of 200,000 gallons. A constant supply is maintained and the water has proved satisfactory on analysis.

The average daily consumption during the year was $10\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per head.

2. *Rivers and Streams*: The condition of these is under the direct control of the County Council. No action in regard to them was taken by the Urban Council.

3. *Drainage and Sewerage*:—

Practically the whole of the district is provided with sewers, the sewage being conveyed to the Rookery or Red Bull Sewage Works.

Rookery Sewage Works:

This works, which receives sewage from the Newchapel Ward, continues to work satisfactorily.

Red Bull Sewage Works.

This works, which receives sewage from the Kids Grove and Talke Wards, is overloaded.

The scheme submitted to the Ministry of Health in connection with the Sewerage and Outfall Works has been held up so far as extension to the disposal works was concerned, primarily on account of the Ministry's requirement that Atmospheric Sludge Digestion should be introduced and further as a result of prevailing war conditions. A slight improvement has been effected by converting a storm water tank (which had been out of commission for some time) into an additional settling tank.

Septic Tanks and Filters and Cesspools:

There are a number of these throughout the district, the majority of which are in connection with private drainage systems.

On the 4th June the Council formally undertook to empty cesspools throughout the district.

4. *Public Cleansing*.

(1) *Ash Collecting*:

All the scavenging is done by the Council's workmen under a system of direct labour. The refuse is normally collected each week throughout the district, but the collection of salvage and other factors necessitated some adjustment of collection, in consequence of which the ashes are not collected more frequently than each fortnight. It is desirable that this refuse should be collected more frequently. A covered motor vehicle is used for this purpose and sanitary bins are in general use throughout the area.

Trade refuse from fish dealers is removed in specially provided containers and is taken to the fish and bone-meal works in the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

The refuse from Kids Grove and Talke Wards is taken to a controlled tip at Talke Hurst, Butt Lane, which is outside the district. Refuse from the Newchapel Ward is taken to a controlled tip at Trubshaw Farm.

(2) *Salvage.*

Collection:

All salvaged articles or materials from domestic premises are collected at the same time as the refuse, a trailer being attached to the refuse vehicle for this purpose. Special journeys are made when these are justified.

Salvage from business premises is collected by the W.V.S.

Sorting and Bailing:

(a) *At the Salvage Depot.*—Part of the Market Hall has been utilised for a Salvage Depot and here the whole of the salvaged material is deposited. Two men are employed in this depot, and this is the only additional labour employed for salvage.

Bones are stored in covered metal receptacles pending removal. Bottles are separated and graded and stored to the best advantage.

Paper (including cardboard) is baled and stored, also Rags.

Metals, etc., are stored in bulk until a marketable quantity is obtained.

(b) *At the Tips.*—All tins and other articles which might be collected with the household ashes are sorted out at the controlled tip, and stored in bulk in the open. These are collected and disposed of by Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

Disposal:

Tins are collected in bulk by the Stoke-on-Trent Corporation as often as may be necessary. All other articles or materials are disposed of as a sufficient quantity becomes available.

The following amounts of salvaged goods have been sold during the year:

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Tins	36	17	0	0
Paper, Cardboard, etc.	116	4	2	14
Rags	4	9	0	4
Bones	2	9	2	12
Scrap Metal ..	17	1	2	23
Alluminium ..	0	16	3	14
Rubber	6	5	2	2

In addition to the above, a large quantity of glass bottles have been sold.

No scheme was in operation during the year for salvage of waste foodstuffs (except for foods from the A.R.P. Canteen) but a scheme is in preparation for salvage of all kitchen waste.

Nightsoil.

The Council have now only one horse and an adjustment has had to be made in the method of nightsoil emptying. The horse and cart (with two men) is used full time in emptying of closets throughout the district. They carry out this work in alternate weeks as follows:—3 days in Talke or Kids Grove, and 2½ days in Newchapel in one week, and the whole of the other week at Talke. This is augmented by hiring a horse for 2 and 3 days respectively in the 2nd and 4th week of each four week period for work at Newchapel.

The varying type of closets prohibits a standardised regularity of emptying, although most of the closets attached to house properties are emptied once each fortnight (approximately).

In my opinion, closet emptying should be more frequent, say once each week.

The nightsoil is disposed of by tipping into conveniently situated manholes on the course of the sewer.

5. Closet Accommodation.

483 houses have fixed earthenware receptacles, 180 are provided with privies, and 37 with moveable receptacles. The remaining houses have fresh-water or waste-water closets.

The following are details of closets other than W.C.'s and waste-water closets (end of year):—

	Fixed Earthenware Receptacles.	Privies.	Moveable Recept'le.	Chemical Closets.
Talke Ward—				
Houses (including farms and Inns)	314	143	4	—
Factories, schools, etc	2	12	—	—
Additional closets at houses, Inns and farms	2	3	—	2
Kids Grove Ward—				
Houses	16	—	1	—
Factories	—	4	—	—
Newchapel Ward—				
Houses (including farms and Inns)	153	37	32	—
Factories, schools, etc.	7	2	3	—
Additional closets at houses, Inns and farms	1	—	4	—
	495	201	44	2

Note.—The above figures include houses on which demolition orders are operative and which are not totally demolished, they also include three closets at Black Bull, emptied by Biddulph U.D.C. In addition to the above, there are a number of chemical closets installed in Air Raid Shelters which are emptied as occasion demands.

6. *Offensive Trade.*

One offensive trade (tripe boiling) has been registered during the year.

7. *Swimming Baths.*

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the district.

8. *Desinfestation, etc.*

Premises have been treated for the eradication of bed bugs, etc.

9. *Air Raid Shelters.*

A systematic cleansing of public air raid shelters is carried out. Cleansing and disinfection of Communal Shelters is the responsibility of the persons allocated to same, and a leaflet has been prepared and distributed to users of such shelters. This leaflet gives instructions and advice on the care and maintenance of shelters.

D. Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year: Nil.

1—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts	2
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	19
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ..	1
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	19
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (Individual unfit)	1
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	1

II.

D.

Housing.

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	0
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 18 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	1
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:

(a) By owners	1
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(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. 169

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of informal Notice	..	109
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :

(a) By owners	13
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(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 49
(Bins)

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made	0
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(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition Orders	5
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(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 Ni

(4) Housing Act 1936. Part IV.

Overcrowding :—No accurate figures available.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—

The purity of the milk produced within the area or brought for sale has been satisfactory as have also the arrangements for its distribution.

No licenses were issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Order.

(b) *Meat and other Foods.*—

The local butchers are being supplied from the distributing centre at Tunstall. Licenses have been issued by the local Food Office for occasional slaughtering of pigs, the pork, in most cases, being for home consumption.

(c) *Adulteration.*—

Samples of Milk and other foods are taken by Inspectors of the County Council for Chemical or Bacteriological Examination by the County Analyst at Stafford.

F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

There were 118 cases of notifiable infectious diseases under the Public Health Act (including Tuberculosis) during the year. There were also 107 cases of measles and 28 cases of Whooping Cough.

These were distributed as follows:—

Disease	Kidsgrove Ward	Newchapel Ward	Talke Ward	Total
Chronic Dysentery ...	1	0	0	1
Bacillary Dysentery ..	0	1	0	1
Scarlet Fever ...	7	9	6	22
Diphtheria ...	3	2	0	5
Pneumonia ...	21	7	10	38
Tuberculosis (Non Pulmonary)	1	2	6	9
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	12	1	4	17
Erysipelas ...	12	3	0	15
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	2	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	0	2	4
Measles ...	7	87	13	107
Whooping Cough ...	0	12	16	28
Cerebo Spinal Fever...	2	0	0	2

Grand Total, 253

One of these cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was a transfer from another area.

All cases, except five of Scarlet Fever, were removed to Bradwell Sanatorium. The cases of Diphtheria and Cerebo-Spinal Fever were also removed to this Sanatorium, or to the Newcastle I.D. Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.*New cases and Mortality during 1942.*

New Cases - 26					Deaths - 11			
Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	...	...	...	...	..	...	I	I
1—5	...	I	I	2	..	...	..	I
5—15	I	I	3	I	..	...	I	...
15—25	2	3	..	2	...	..	...	I
25—35	...	I	..	...	I	...	...	...
35—45	3	...	I	..	...	I	I	..
45—55	3	I	...	..	I	..	...	...
55—65	I	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 & upwards	..	...	...	...	I	...	..	...
Totals	10	7	5	5	3	I	3	3

There was one Pulmonary transfer from another area during the year (male).

DIPHTHERIA.*Immunisation against Diphtheria :*

Efforts have been made to obtain consent of parents for immunisation of school children, and the Health Visitors have maintained their efforts by distributing Consent Forms at the Clinics and visiting the homes in connection with the younger children.

All immunisations carried out during the year have been performed by the School Medical Staff at the schools and Clinics.

The percentage of child population immunised against Diphtheria remains fairly constant.

School Children, (5 to 15) :

Number immunised during year, 326,

Total number immunised .. 1675, (79 per cent of population)

Children under School Age:

Number immunised during year, 299.

Total number immunised .. 536, 48½ (.. ..)

No case of Diphtheria has occurred amongst immunised children during the year.

Swabs have been taken, when occasion has arisen, from unhealthy throats by the School Medical Officer. The pathological findings of these swabs are at once reported, so that immediate steps may be taken to investigate the circumstances and isolate possible cases.

A serum syringe and diphtheria anti-toxin are provided and kept at the Police Station, Kids Grove, for the emergency use of practitioners.

Immunisation against Organisms of the Typhoid Group.

There has been no volunteers for immunisation against Typhoid.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES.

A scheme has been formulated for the treatment of Scabies under the provisions of the Scabies Order, 1941. No sessions were conducted during the year.

GENERAL.

The prevalence of Cancer is not specially abnormal.

Number of deaths from this: Males 7. Females 8. Total 15.

Hospital accommodation has been sufficient for the infectious cases from the area.

Disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out by the Local Authority, when required by the Medical Officer of Health.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act 1925, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from injury to the eyes.

No action was taken under the Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925. (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 63 of the Public Health Act 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936, (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

I am, yours faithfully,

HENRY P. HARPUR. M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1942.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kidsgrove
Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1942.

I.—TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS.

In July, Mr. Crowther-Green, the Surveyor, was called up for Military Service and I was appointed as Acting Surveyor, I acted in this temporary capacity from 31st July, until 12th November, but found it necessary to relinquish the position on account of the work involved.

On the 3rd December, I was appointed Chief Billeting Officer.

2.—AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

I hold the following appointments:—

- (a) Decontamination Officer.
- (b) Food De-Contamination Officer.

The former appointment is for operational purposes only, as the Decontamination Service is now merged with the Rescue Service.

The latter appointment is for the purpose of dealing with contaminated foodstuffs and supervising the operations of the Food Treatment Squads.

A scheme has been formulated for dealing with contaminated foodstuffs and sufficient volunteers have completed their training,

3.—DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, Etc.

A large portion of my time has been spent in work arising out of the scheme for immunisation of children against Diphtheria including such clerical work as was necessary in compiling Register of Immunisations, Statistics and filing record cards, etc.

4.—COMPLAINTS.

86 complaints have been received and dealt with during the year.

5.—INSPECTIONS, Etc.

The following is a list of inspections and re-inspections carried out:—

	Primary Inspections	Remediable Defects	Re-in spections	Defects Remedied
† Houses under Public Health Acts	42	68	75	86
Overcrowding	4		5	2
Water Supply	15	9	39	10
Schools	16		1	
Ashes Accommodation ..	44	39	88	59
Accumulations	4	3	6	3
Tents, Vans, Sheds ..	1	1	1	1
Drainage Inspections ..	47	39	102	50
Drainage Tests	14			
Water-closets & Slop-closets ..	39	62	127	24
Pail-closets or Privies ..	5	7	16	8
Sewers & Street Gullies ..	8	8	17	8
Cowsheds	37		2	5
Milkshops & Dairies ..	34		4	
Premises for meat inspection	26		2	
Food preparing premises ..	2		1	7
General Food premises ..	40		1	
Factories	2	3	1	
Offensive Trade	1	3	1	3
Shops	2		1	1
Rats & Mice Acts	1	2	4	
Verminous Premises	4	2	2	2
Infectious Diseases	27		15	
Houses under Sec. 9 Housing Act	1		19	24
Houses under Sec. 11 ..	1		32	
Houses [other visits] ..	5		10	
Cleansing & Salvaging ..	15			
Miscellaneous visits ..	69		1	
	506	246	573	293

† Includes houses licensed under Sec. 68 of the Defence Regulations
1 have had 152 interviews with owners, builders, etc.

5.—SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

The following table records some of the sanitary improvements effected during the year ending 31st December:—

Mechanical flushing facilities provided to closets ..	1
Defective W.C.'s remedied	21
New drainage provided	10
New sinks fixed	1
Obstructed drains and private sewers dealt with ..	31
Ashbins provided [49 by L.A.]	62
Polluted wells disused for domestic purposes ..	1
Number of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with ..	3
Dairy brought up to standard of M. & D.O. ..	1

6.—HOUSING.

1. General.

Five houses subject to Demolition Orders have been demolished during the year, two by the owners and the other three by the Local Authority. All these houses were incapable of being rendered fit for temporary occupation, the three demolished by the L.A. having become dangerous.

Licenses have been renewed under 68a of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939, to facilitate the housing of persons rendered homeless by enemy action.

One house has been rendered in all respects fit for human habitation following Statutory action under Sec. 9 of the Housing Act 1936,

Owing to shortage of labour and scarcity of materials difficulty has been experienced in getting work done and it has been considered inadvisable to take informal action under Section 9 of the Housing Act. A policy has been adopted of confining action to items of urgent disrepair by the service of notices under the Public Health Act.

2—Overcrowding.

No accurate figures are available as to the extent of overcrowding in the district, but it would appear that over-crowding had become more prevalent as a result of unofficial evacuees being billeted in the district.

No cases have been reported during the year.

7.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Meat and other Foods.

Occasional inspection of meat and other foods has been carried out at the shops and at premises where licenses have been issued for occasional slaughtering. Close co-operation has existed between myself and the Officers of the Ministry of Food.

32 Pigs have been inspected.

The following foods were surrendered as unfit for human consumption :

(a) From General Food Premissss.

50 lbs Pork.

203 lbs Tinned Meat.

12 lbs Cheese.

15½ lbs Tinned Vegetables.

87½ lbs Milk.

2¾ lbs Fish

1½ lbs Fruit.

(b) From other premises.

926 lbs Various Tinned Foods.

2. Food and Drugs Act.

Samples of foods and drugs are taken by the Inspectors of the County Council,

No applications were received under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938.

3. Milk and Dairies.

A few inspections have been made under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order 1936.

Improvements have been carried out at one farm and dairy,

8. Private Water Supplies.

Samples have been taken from four wells or springs for chemical and bacteriological examination

The Analysis showed them to be unfit and steps are being taken to ensure pure supplies being provided. One pure supply was provided during the year as a result of Statutory Action,

9. Shops Acts.

A few inspections have been carried out and heating facilities installed at one shop.

The County Council is the Authority for control of hours of employment, closing hours, etc.

10. Destruction of Rats and Mice.

The County Council is the Authority for the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act. An agreement is in operation between the Urban Authority and the County Council for the services of the County Rat Catcher on certain Council's properties as follows:—

£5 for Market Hall and Red Bull Sewage Works,

£8 for Talkhurst Tip and Rookery Sewage Works,

Complaints received during the year were passed on to the County Authority, or assistance was given to owners or occupiers of premises when requested and when the infestation was of a minor character,

11. Infectious Diseases.

Where cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever have occurred fumigation has been carried out by myself.

Disinfectant was supplied in every case and instructions given as to precautions necessary to prevent spread of the infection.

Premises were disinfected at the request of Health Visitors for cases of Tuberculosis.

12. Disinfestation.

Vermineous Premises have been treated for the eradication of bugs or cockroaches, and one vermineous person was dealt with.

No evidence of infestation by vermin (other than rats) has been observed at the tips.

13. Ashes Accommodation.

The Council have decided to request the provisions of dustbins of the following material, size and construction, where Statutory Notices were served under Section 75 of the Public Health Act 1936.

Galvanised Iron or Japanned Fluted, "D" shaped, of two bushels capacity and 26 lbs weight.

62 New Bins were provided as a result of informal notices, 49 Regulation Bins being supplied by the Authority following the service of Statutory Notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act 1936.

14. Closet Accommodation.

No pressure has been brought to bear on owners for closet conversions. One closet has been provided with flushing facilities and five privies have been changed to pail closets as a temporary measure.

I am, yours faithfully,

E. STANSFIELD.

Sanitary Inspector.

